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### A GENTLEMAN'S SECRETARY AND TOILET CABINET.

THE London *Cabinet Maker*, in referring to the suitable furnishing of a bachelor's apartment and the desirability of pieces of combination furniture in such places, observes: "But cabinets of this kind only serve to make evident the excellencies and good qualities in general of such a piece of furniture as that which we this month place before our readers, and which might aptly be described as a 'Gentleman's Secretary and Toilet Cabinet.' It might with perfect propriety find a place either in the bedroom, living-room, or even private office of the bachelor, as it is artistic in outline, and conceals in its appearance, as a whole, the more prosaic accommodations that tend to make it so useful in its double capacity."

"It combines the writing-cabinet with the dressing-table, and may be used in either way without inconvenience of any description."

"The top, which divides the cabinet in height into two pretty equal parts, is supported on four square pillars, which are turned off at the foot in a simple yet effective manner. The sub-division of the space below the top, enclosed by the legs, allows for the introduction of a narrow shelf, half the width of the cabinet, and affords ample accommodation for portfolios. This diversion from the usual order of construction observed in most cabinets gives a very effective end view to the job, besides opening up a condition of usefulness which is but too seldom seen nowadays. The deep frieze supporting the top is constructed to carry a couple of drawers, working one from each end. One of these might be fitted up with divisions and racks to hold the necessary pens and ink-bottles, for use in connection with the cabinet when required as a secretary, the other being left clear for the reception of such MSS. and documents as might be wanted."

"The upper portion of the cabinet is broken up, so to speak, into shelves and cupboards. The large paneled frame in the lower part is made to fall down in front, in the manner customary in such cases, and forms the writing slope for use in connection with the secretary proper. It should be lined on the inside with leather in the usual way. The bottom edge of this fall is lifted three or four inches from the surface of the top, for the purpose of affording a sufficient slope, and the space thus released is filled up by three handy drawers, which might be utilized for general purposes."

"The cupboard, immediately above the writing slope, is enclosed by a door, which is also

made to fall down in front. It is tastefully paneled on the outside, with a little carving inserted in the center, and is so constructed that the inner side forms a mirror, which can be used for toilet purposes when let down. Any angle of inclination can be imparted to this mirror by pulling out the middle drawer below the writing slope, as the door, when opened down, will rest on this. It is necessary, therefore, that this drawer be made a tight fit, and as the pressure of the door upon it will be extremely light, it is not likely that it will prove too much for the drawer to support."

"The inside of the cupboard is fitted with a shelf for the reception of a hat box, and accommodation for brushes is afforded below. The cupboards at either side of the middle one are divided by means of a shelf, this allowing ample space for books or any specimens of art pottery that it may be deemed desirable to place thereon."

"The cupboard, which is disclosed by the falling down of the writing slope, is divided into compartments for the usual books and papers indispensable in connection with a secretary, a few pigeon holes being provided as usual. The space below these latter is enclosed by a stationery case which is hinged on the top to the lower edge of the pigeon holes. Therefore, when access is wanted to the bottom space, this case must be lifted forward upon the hinges, when the space is at once opened out in a satisfactory manner."

"Beginning with the construction of the lower half of the cabinet, the legs should be allowed to run the whole length, from the floor to the top. The bearers and top rails carrying the drawers should be arranged in the customary manner, the only particular point noticeable being that the back rail should be kept half an inch or so narrower than the front one. This is to allow the introduction of a thin bottom, sliding in on grooved runners, some boxing-in being necessary to ensure the cleanliness and safe keeping of the papers which are likely to be placed in the drawers. This method of running in the bottom is preferable to having a shelf fixed in between the legs, upon which the drawers would work, inasmuch as it makes the job less top heavy, and is also much more expeditiously done."

"As the shelf and the space above it immediately behind the long fret panel, are to be devoted to the reception of portfolios, it will be necessary to have some kind of framing at the back to give support to these. Two narrow molded rails, one placed on a line with the top fret rail, the other midway between it and the shelf, would be the best way out of the difficulty, as a panel would be rather out of place here."

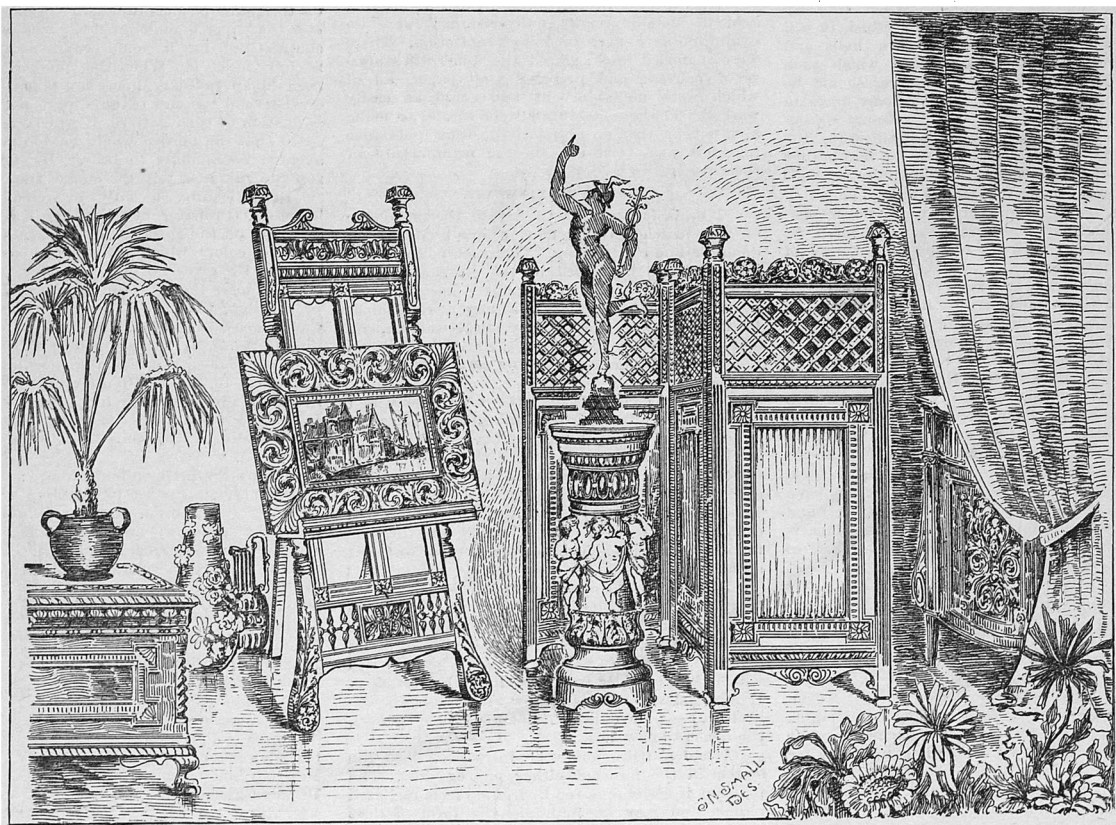
"The top rail, behind which run the two drawers, should be built up to correspond with the drawer fronts, so that when closed these will all be in keeping with one another."

"The top need not be made the full width of the bottom carcass throughout, as a considerable portion will be permanently covered in by the upper portion of the cabinet. It will be quite sufficient if the top be just wide enough to run one inch under the upper portion, the ends being jointed out with stuff about four inches long, to the full width required."

"Taking the upper carcass next, the ends should be dovetailed into the bottom from the back edge, running up from there right to the top of the cornice, thus requiring to be cut out the full height of the job. A thin shelf should be dovetail-grooved into them a few inches from the top to form the bottom of the cornice, and a piece of one-half-inch pine would then do to cover in, the whole being hidden by the cornice molding, which is planted round. The small neck molding below is fixed in the same way."

**DISTINCTNESS IN FORMS AND COLORS.**—A recommendatory attractive feature in the many fantastic wall ornaments, such as cartouches, etc., now fashionable, is the revelry of enjoyment afforded by contrasting colors of the objects, arbitrarily grouped, and the difference of their outlines, securing distinctness, always pleasing in art objects; as, for instance, a swarm of butterflies on scarlet plush ground, about the disk of a clock. Quaint combinations of the kinds now offered are as old as medieval times. Distinctness in form embodies a principle that runs through decoration. Although a statue is obviously distinct enough, by its mere opposition to the nature of things about it, we place it before a wall of a different tone, or even a crimson silk curtain, to render it more apparent, and oppose a ground slightly tinted to a flat relief. Portions, too, whether in the round or in relief, need the accentuation of a line of color to define a boundary or explain a form. This distinctness justifies the combination in ornamental articles of different materials as well as objects.

**PARLOR EASELS.**—The model of the artist's studio has usually been followed in these, with the addition of carved panels; an improvement for parlor use is in the outside uprights being carved in twisted spiral threads, in the old style of furniture half a century since.



PARLOR FURNITURE DESIGNED BY S. N. SMALL.